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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY : USSR

SUBJECT : Rectifier Plant in Sverdlovsk,

PLACE ACQUIRED

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1. The rectifier plant was separated from the electric works. The smaller plant, which actually was the rectifier plant, employed 1500 workers, of which 40% were forced labor, 30% women, 10% unskilled labor, 10% semi-skilled labor, and 10% skilled labor. Only single anode rectifiers assembled in blocks of six were manufactured there, copied from American models. These rectifiers were used for railroad installations and electrolytic systems, especially for aluminum electrolysis, and did not represent anything new in known technical fields. With the exception of modern grid control mechanisms which were developed by Dr Ernst Ludwig on the basis of Siemens diagrams, no new production was undertaken.

2. The general condition of the factory gave an impression of catastrophe. Installations to insure the proper assembly of rectifiers were not available, and were manufactured in part at the beginning of my activities there. There was an acute shortage of the most necessary tools, such as hammers, pliers, files, vises, etc. The few workers who had their own tools had to guard them carefully, and sometimes even carried them with them, attached on strings. Generally, wrenches or stones were used in place of hammers.

3. The general production procedure was dictated completely by a plan, which had to be approved in every detail by Moscow. Since material could be procured only after the plan had been approved, actual manufacture was begun weeks or months late, and then was hastily performed in order to meet deadlines.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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4. [redacted] 25X1

5. Dr Ludwig was given the task of developing a modern rectifier control system and had completed this task in 1949. The development was awarded the Stalin Prize, which, however, was not given to Dr Ludwig, but was distributed among three engineers in the plant. Dr Ludwig then received an offer to go to Moscow, which he refused. Since Dr Ludwig was not assigned any new tasks by the plant, he has not been required to work there actively since 1949. He still participates in conferences; however, his presence goes unnoticed. He continues to receive his full salary of Rubles 6 thousand. As a result of these conditions, Dr Ludwig is mentally exhausted. He will not speak a single word for days, not even to his wife. The return of Dr Ludwig is very unlikely. [redacted] Dr Ludwig is being retained in the USSR because of his activities with the development of V-weapons, even though he was not used in this capacity in the USSR. In 1946, Dr Ludwig delivered to the Soviets at Schoenweide extensive testimony about the development of V-weapons. Dr Ludwig was the theoretical expert at Siemens, and was responsible for the calculation of flight paths. 25X1

6. [redacted] trip to the USSR. 25X1
The transport consisted mainly of families from Schoenweide, of which 35 went to Leningrad and 11 to Monino. The latter formed a group called "Joswig", and were known as V-weapons personnel. It was not possible to contact these families by correspondence. The "Joswig" group was transferred about two years ago from Monino to the islands in Lake Seliger. 2400 Germans were at Kuibyshev-Volga. [redacted] about 50 of this group died there, and about one thousand were started on their return to Germany. 25X1

7. [redacted] 25X1

8. Extensive construction of industrial installations is underway in Sverdlovsk, which most likely has a connection with the large scale transfer of heavy industry behind the Ural Mountains.

9. [redacted] strong pillbox fortifications 25X1
at the Russo-Polish border, east of the Bug River.